

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A cue stick comprising:
 - a grip portion;
 - a slide portion adjacent said grip portion;
 - a tip on a terminal end of said slide portion; ~~and~~
 - a recessed area defined by one of said grip portion and said slide portion at a location selected from a group consisting of approximately adjacent an interface between said grip portion and said slide portion and approximately adjacent said tip;
 - ~~a strengthening wrap adjacent a location selected from a group consisting of approximately adjacent an interface between said grip portion and said slide portion and approximately adjacent said tip~~ received in said recessed area; and
 - wherein said strengthening wrap is a composite comprising a metallic screen, a sheet of non-metallic material adjacent said metallic screen, and a resin for bonding said sheet of non-metallic material and said metallic screen.
2. (Original) A cue stick according to claim 1 wherein:
 - said strengthening wrap is adjacent said tip; and

said strengthening wrap is in communication with said tip for substantially preventing deflection of said tip upon impact with a billiard ball.

3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The cue stick according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein:
said screen is comprised of titanium.
5. (Currently Amended) The cue stick according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein:
said screen is comprised of copper.
6. (Currently Amended) The cue stick according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein:
said sheet of material is comprised of a plurality of fibers.
7. (Original) The cue stick according to claim **6** wherein:
said plurality of fibers are graphite.
8. (Original) The cue stick according to claim **6** wherein:
said plurality of fibers are fiberglass.

9. (Original) The cue stick according to claim 6 wherein:

said plurality of fibers are kevlar.
10. (Original) The cue stick according to claim 1 wherein:

said tip comprises a metallic section.
11. (Original) The cue stick according to claim 1 wherein:

said tip comprises a cue tip.
12. (Original) The cue stick according to claim 1 wherein:

said grip portion has rigid sleeve on a second end;

said slide portion has a rigid sleeve on a first end; and

wherein when said grip portion and said slide portion are joined together, said rigid sleeve of said grip portion and said rigid sleeve of said slide portion mate against one another.

Claims 13-25 (Canceled)

26. (New) A cue stick comprising:

a grip portion;

a slide portion adjacent said grip portion;

a tip on a terminal end of said slide portion; and

a strengthening wrap adjacent said tip and in communication with said tip for substantially preventing deflection of said tip upon impact with a billiard ball; and

wherein said strengthening wrap is a composite comprising a copper screen, a sheet of material adjacent said copper screen, a resin for bonding said sheet of material and said copper screen.

27. (New) The cue stick according to claim **26** further comprising:

a strengthening wrap approximately adjacent an interface between said grip portion and said slide portion.

28. (New) A cue stick comprising:

a grip portion having rigid sleeve on a second end;

a slide portion having a terminal end defining a recessed area and having a rigid sleeve on a first end; and

wherein when said grip portion and said slide portion are joined together, said rigid

sleeve of said grip portion and said rigid sleeve of said slide portion mate against one another for forming a deflection resistant interface;

a strengthening wrap in said recessed area; and

a tip in communication with said strengthening wrap, said strengthening wrap for substantially preventing deflection of said tip upon impact with a billiard ball;

wherein said strengthening wrap is a composite comprising a copper screen, a sheet of material adjacent said screen, and a resin for bonding said sheet of material and said screen.

29. (New) The cue stick according to claim **28** further comprising:

a strengthening wrap adjacent a location selected from a group consisting of approximately adjacent an interface between said grip portion and said slide portion.